

# WORLD

## SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

# GALLERY

### INDIA



*Ruth DeFries*

#### Fulbright Alumna Awarded MacArthur Fellowship

Professor Ruth DeFries was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2007. The MacArthur Fellowship is awarded to individuals who show exceptional creativity in their work and the prospect for still more in the future. During her 2007 Fulbright Scholar grant to India, where she was affiliated with the Institute of Economic Growth in New Delhi, Dr. DeFries focused on the question, “Is Tourism a ‘Win-Win’ for Local Livelihoods and Forest Ecosystems in the Central Highlands of India?” Dr. DeFries is the Denning Professor of Sustainable Development in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology at Columbia University. She worked with collaborators to develop a more accurate method of recording land cover. The technique allows scientists to better understand the more subtle process and effects of deforestation and urbanization. Dr. DeFries stated that, “In our interconnected world, the opportunities offered by the Fulbright Program are irreplaceable.”

#### Math and Science Teachers Collaborate with Peers in India

Math and science teachers from the United States visited India under a Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad study tour from June to August 2007. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the seminar paired each American teacher with a teacher from a government school in the Delhi area. In addition to examining how math and science are taught in Indian schools, the teachers visited eight cities across the country to learn about India’s history, cultural and religious diversity, and economic growth. Each pair of teachers worked on a curriculum project together and stayed in touch on-line after returning home.



*A U.S. teacher shares her experience with an Indian teacher.*



*U.S. Teachers in Mumbai.*

## BHUTAN

### Bhutanese Humphrey Fellows Showcase “Land of the Thunder Dragon” at Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Two Humphrey Fellows from Bhutan, Dr. Chenchu Dorji and Karma Thinley Wangchuk, participated in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC. Dr. Dorji was a Humphrey Fellow affiliated at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). His JHU web biography credited him as being Bhutan’s first qualified psychiatrist. Dr. Dorji was a resource person on a range of topics at the Smithsonian

Festival, including traditional medicine. Karma Thinley Wangchuk, an urban planner and landscape architect, was a Humphrey Fellow affiliated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He supervised the construction of the Buddhist temple exhibit at the festival. The timber members are all hand-carved and painted and were shipped from Bhutan for assembly on the National Mall.



*Karma Thinley Wangchuk points to some of the art work representing tenets of Buddhism inside the temple exhibit.*



*From left to right: Humphrey Fellow Dr. Chenchu Dorji, State Department program officer Paul Schelp and Humphrey Fellow Karma Thinley Wangchuk in front of the Buddhist temple exhibit.*

Photos by: Jennifer Morris  
Courtesy of The University of Texas at El Paso

## TAJIKISTAN

### Fulbright Scholar Conducts Research in Florida

Mukhamadcho Kukaniev was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Florida Atlantic University from the Chemical Department at the Institute of Chemistry, Tajik Academy of Sciences (photo right). He said that life in the United States had shown him “...that American people are very open and friendly. Americans extend their help to everybody no matter what religion, education and economic status one has.”



*Mukhamadcho Kukaniev*

## PAKISTAN

### Fulbright Student from Pakistan Pursues MBA

Fulbright Visiting Student Hassan Ali Syed, a 2007 MBA student at the University of Colorado, Boulder, is from Lahore, Pakistan. He received his Bachelor’s degree in economics at the Lahore University of Management Services (LUMS).

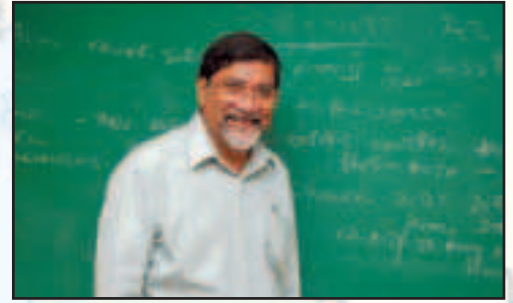
*Fulbright Visiting Student from Pakistan Hassan Ali Syed visits New York City.*



## BANGLADESH

### Fulbright Scholar to Bangladesh Named South Dakota Professor of the Year

In November 2007, U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Bangladesh Dr. Ahrar Ahmad was named South Dakota Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The Award is given to outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country who excel in teaching and positively influence the lives and careers of students. Dr. Ahmad is a Professor of Political Science at Black Hills State University in South Dakota. His Fulbright 2007-2008 grant was to teach and conduct research at the Independent University in Bangladesh.



*Dr. Ahrar Ahmad*



### Fulbrighter Experiences Culture of Bangladesh

Donald Katz, 2007 Fulbright Student, pictured left in Dhaka, Bangladesh, is a civil engineering graduate of North Carolina State University. His Fulbright research is focused on public transportation. He was affiliated with the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

*U.S. Fulbright Student Donald Katz (far right) and friends in Bangladesh.*

## KAZAKHSTAN

### Fulbright Scholar from Kazakhstan Speaks About Muslim Traditions

In April 2008, Fulbright Visiting Scholar Raushan Mustafina from Kazakhstan spoke at Central Florida Community College about Muslim traditions in her home country, as well as Soviet influence and the merging of traditional culture in modern-day Kazakhstan. Dr. Mustafina is a professor at the Eurasian National University and researcher for the Institute of History and Ethnology, Ministry of Education and Science.



*Raushan Mustafina (second from left) with faculty members.*

Photo by: Patrick Fleming Central Florida C.C.

## SRI LANKA

### Professor Advises Sri Lankan Universities on Health, Fitness and Sport

Dr. Thomas P. Martin, who is a Professor in the Health, Fitness and Sport Department at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio as well as a fellow in the American College of Sports Medicine (FACSM) and a Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist (RCEP) was a Fulbright Scholar to Sri Lanka in 2008. Highlights included the training of Physical Education faculty at the University of Ruhuna in Matara to teach the first university-level interdisciplinary academic course in Sri Lanka – “Physical Fitness and Health Management.”

Dr. Martin also conducted workshops at the University of Peradeniya in Kandy related to health, physical fitness and exercise physiology for faculty, staff, students and sports medicine physicians and professionals in the community. In addition, he advised the Department of Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine on the development of the first certificate and diploma program on Exercise and Sport Science in Sri Lanka.



*Dr. Martin (standing at center) presents a Health-Related Physical Fitness Workshop at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka.*



*Dr. Thomas P. Martin (at right) presents Mr. Susil Premajayantha, Sri Lankan Minister of Education, with a resource designed to educate, challenge and encourage children to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes for a healthy and fit life.*

## AFGHANISTAN

### Afghan President Hosts Exchange Alumni

Afghan President Hamid Karzai hosted a group of Afghan exchange program alumni to tea and cake at the presidential palace in April 2008. The invitation was extended to participants in a conference to inaugurate an association for alumni of all U.S. government exchange programs. President Karzai is an alumnus of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs International Visitor Leadership Program. He told stories of his time in the United States and emphasized the importance of exchanges. About 160 alumni from the Fulbright, Humphrey, International Visitor Leadership, and Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Programs attended the conference, which concluded with the election of four interim board members for the Afghan Alumni Association.

## NEPAL



### Fulbrighter Enjoys Research and Biking in Nepal

U.S. Fulbright Student Tyler McMahon, a graduate of Colorado College, kept up biking with friend and Nepali mountain bike athlete Padam Limbu while researching rainwater harvesting during his Fulbright Student grant to Nepal. He was hosted in Nepal by the NGO Forum.

*Tyler McMahon (right) with Nepali friend.*





## NEPAL

*Participants in the South Asia Fulbright Alumni conference in Kathmandu get their hands dirty -- working as part of a crew to help clean up the Bagmati River.*

# NEPAL

## Nepal Hosts Regional Fulbright Alumni Conference

In January 2008, the U.S.-Nepal Fulbright Commission hosted a South Asia Fulbright Alumni Conference in Kathmandu. Sponsored by the Fulbright Alumni Association in Nepal, the regional conference focused on the theme of “Public Service and Building Civil Society,” and included Fulbright alumni from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Fulbright Commission Executive Director Peter Moran noted that the relatively small forum provided an opportunity for alumni to interact. Topics pertinent to the South Asia region such as water, democracy, and civil society were discussed. The conference succeeded in generating a strong desire among the alumni from Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Afghanistan to set up their own Fulbright alumni associations. The U.S. Embassies in Afghanistan and Bangladesh reported shortly after the alumni returned home that work to create alumni associations already had begun.



*Cheli Samuha or “The Women’s Group” performs for Fulbrighters at the opening of the alumni regional conference. Fulbright Commission Executive Director Peter Moran reports that the group is the first all women’s classical music group in Kathmandu.*

## Fulbright Couple to Nepal Lectures and Conducts Research

2007-2008 Fulbright Scholars to Nepal, Dr. Fred Connell and Dr. Sandra (Sandy) Connell, both from the University of Washington, lectured and conducted research at the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences in southern Nepal.



*Fred Connell (second from right) consults with Nepali colleagues.*



*Sandy Connell (at right) spends time with her Sherpa “sister” in Dhankuta district.*

## Fulbrighter Researches Micro-Credit and Banking in Nepal



Raj Shrestha, a graduate of Pace University, is pictured discussing local micro-finance practices with participants in the town of Bhairawa. Shrestha was a U.S. Fulbright Student examining micro-credit and banking in Nepal. He was affiliated in Nepal with Kathmandu University.

*Raj Shrestha (seated at center) in town of Bhairawa.*

